
FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 3.1.2010

Wall Street Journal: "AIG Agrees to Sell Asia Unit ... In its biggest move yet to repay a \$182.3 billion U.S.-government bailout, American International Group Inc. agreed Monday to sell its crown-jewel Asian life-insurance business to Prudential PLC for about \$35.5 billion."

Wall Street Journal: "As Loans Dry Up, Builders Work for Banks ... Home builders in some of the nation's hardest-hit housing markets are going to work directly for banks, in a little-used arrangement that is helping to ameliorate conditions in some battered local economies."

Wall Street Journal: "Why Financial Reform Is Stalled ... According to the media's narrative about Washington, the Obama administration's financial regulation proposals have not gotten through Congress because the town is gridlocked by partisan warfare. It's a simplistic story that does not require much thought to generate or accept."

Wall Street Journal: "\$126.9 Billion and Counting ... It was another impressive three months at Fannie Mae, as Uncle Sam's mortgage finance company reported a fourth quarter loss of \$16.3 billion. That wasn't quite as strong as the third quarter loss of \$19.8 billion, but give Fannie's managers credit for trying."

Washington Post: "The Fed should stay out of the bank-supervision business ... As the Senate begins to focus on how to fix financial regulation, one of the remaining unresolved issues is what role the Federal Reserve should have in supervising banks."

NY Times: "In Senate, a Renewed Effort to Reach a Consensus on Financial Regulation ... When Christopher J. Dodd announced in January that he would not seek a sixth term in the Senate, he called reform of financial regulation, along with health care, "the two most important issues of our time," and pledged to spend his last year in Congress "fully focused" on his legislative duties."

NY Times: "European Union Moves Toward a Bailout of Greece ... Greece, in the midst of a financial crisis, is planning a bond deal this week that depends on a lot of things going right."

NY Times: "Financial Reform Endgame ... So here's the situation. We've been through the second-worst financial crisis in the history of the world, and we've barely begun to recover: 29 million Americans either can't find jobs or can't find full-time work."

USA Today: "For small business owners, finances are front and center ... Financial stress for small business owners abounds: mental exhaustion that comes when completing a lengthy bank loan application; uncertainty that arises when discussing outside investors; and anxiety that goes hand-in-hand with asking a friend and business partner to pony up more dough to get the business started."

USA Today: "Credit unions: Lift cap on small-business loans ... As Congress pleads with banks to increase lending to small businesses to juice the recovery, one group of lenders is begging Congress to let them make more loans: credit unions.:

USA Today: "Our view on financial reform: Wean Wall Street off its gambling addictions ... Once upon a time, Wall Street was about providing services to institutional clients. It helped them raise capital through lending, and the underwriting of

stocks and bonds. It helped them manage their assets by advising them on what to buy and what not to buy."

USA Today: "Opposing view: Don't restrict innovation ... In the aftermath of the financial crisis, the phrase "systemic risk" entered our national conversation in a way that even the most pessimistic economic forecaster could not have predicted. The mistaken idea that some companies are "too big to fail" simply serves to perpetuate a bailout mentality."

Forbes: "A Crisis Waiting To Happen ... The wise minds of the financial world have, it seems, reached a banking compromise that will please everyone.

Politico: "President Obama's mixed message about Wall Street ... When President Barack Obama unveiled new restrictions on banks last month, he warned that the industry would fight it and vowed: "If these folks want a fight, it's a fight I'm ready to have."

Politico: "Stakes are too high to fail on regulatory reform ... The financial crisis that has shaken the American economy did not happen by accident."